Leasing out of heritage sites

4366. SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's expertise in preservation/restoration of heritage sites/ monuments is being sought by Vietnam and Cambodia for restoration of their heritage sites like Angkor Vat Temple, etc.;

(b) if so, whether this expertise could be put to use in the restoration of our heritage sites/monuments; and

(c) the reasons for Government having chosen to lease out heritage site like Taj, Agra and Hampi in Karnataka to private parties like Tatas and Indian Oil despite holding of such expertise and know-how, which is sought after by other countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has not leased out any monument to any party in the private sector. The ASI, under the National Culture Fund, has signed MoUs with the Indian Hotel Corporation Limited and the Indian Oil Foundation for funding the conservation and developmental activities around some selected monuments. All conservation works shall be done by the ASI directly.

Funds for tourist inflow in A.P.

4367. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have provided Central funds/grants for construction of budget accommodation to attract tourist inflow in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of budget accommodations constructed in the State in public and private sector with Central funds so far; and

(d) whether Government propose to increase funds/grants to the State for the purpose?